

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1021

By McCormick

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Mike and Karen Collins, owners of MCA, and their employees for their meritorious service in the Chattanooga business community and computer industry.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly salute those exemplary institutions that, through an abiding commitment to excellence, are a credit to their communities and this State; and

WHEREAS, MCA, formerly known as Mike Collins & Associates, Inc., is one such extraordinary institution deserving of special recognition; and

WHEREAS, MCA was founded in February of 1987 by budding entrepreneurs, Mike and Karen Collins, in the basement of their home in Hixson with the intention of providing information technology (IT) equipment at competitive prices coupled with peerless customer service to the Chattanooga community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Collins first opened their doors in an office on Amnicola Highway in Chattanooga; the business quickly grew, and four years later, they moved to a larger space on Volunteer Drive. By 1995, the thriving business moved into its first free standing building in the Bonny Oaks Industrial Park on Resource Drive, at which time Mike Collins recruited new employees to handle the \$4.5 million business they were transacting; and

WHEREAS, the next year, Mike and Karen Collins expanded their business to include a maintenance division to service all of their products; the expansion worked and the next year, the office building was doubled in size to make room for the exponential growth; and

WHEREAS, at this time, Mike Collins & Associates, Inc. developed partnerships with some of the foremost companies in the industry, such as Hewlett Packard, Dell Computers, IBM, Xerox, Lexmark, Zebra, and Epson; and

WHEREAS, by 2002, Mike Collins & Associates, Inc. formally changed its name and began operating as MCA and continued its rapid growth to the point where the newly named business was able to open additional offices in Nashville and Knoxville in 2004; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, MCA moved its headquarters to its current location on Century Oaks Drive, where its newly constructed building includes more than 22,000 square feet that holds double the office and warehouse space and tech room; and

WHEREAS, the extra space allows MCA to ably meet its customers' IT needs with the development of a new division of IT support through Depot Maintenance; and

WHEREAS, Mike and Karen Collins rightfully take great pride in their business and its accomplishments; today, MCA has forty-two full-time employees and two part-time employees that handle over \$11 million in annual sales, boasts a leasing portfolio of over six million dollars, and services over 500 customers; and

WHEREAS, MCA is a stellar organization whose owners and employees have graciously weathered the ups and downs of an ever-changing market while staying true to its core philosophy to develop strong relationships with its customers by providing excellent service, competitive pricing, and seamless partnerships with IT departments; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Collins are exemplary pillars of the community who generously give to a number of worthy organizations such as, the Forgotten Child Fund, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, YoungLife, Prison & Prevention Ministries, Habitat for Humanity, Bethel Bible Village, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Central Baptist, and several others; they are also distinguished members of the Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce and have the distinction of being a complaint free member of the Better Business Bureau; and

WHEREAS, the future for MCA remains bright as the company's owners and employees prepare for many more years as an innovative and successful business; and

WHEREAS, the management and employees of MCA continue to play an integral role in the economic life of the greater Chattanooga community and are richly deserving of this Body's recognition; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate the owners, Mike and Karen Collins and the employees of MCA on twenty years of extraordinary success and commend their dedication in establishing MCA as one of the finest businesses in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.